

Abstract

An apparatus and method are provided which execute a data acquisition process over a network by selecting an optimum configuration from various transmission modes. In the configuration that a data reproduction process request is transmitted to a network-connected node and a data reproduction process based upon return data is executed, one or more data transmission modes to be adopted as data transmission modes are selected in accordance with a demand level (popularity level) of data, a data transmission rate of each selected mode is determined, and data transmission is performed by using the determined transmission mode. With this configuration, it becomes possible to select and combine data transmission modes, such as a carousel transmission mode, a chaining transmission mode, a distributed cache mode and a client server mode and to realize data transmission by using an efficient and reliable data transmission mode.